

Service Date: December 16, 1981

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

* * * *

IN THE MATTER of the Application)
of Consumers Gas Company for Auth-)
ority to Increase Rates and Charges)
for Natural Gas Service.)

UTILITY DIVISION
DOCKET NO. 81.12.109
INTERIM RATE ORDER 4872

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Consumers Gas Company (Applicant) applied to this Commission for an Order authorizing an increase in the rates Applicant charges for natural gas service. The application sought authority to increase rates in order to track the increase of \$.1382 Mcf in the cost of purchased natural gas from Treasure State Pipe Line Company resulting from the Commission's granting termination of the Oilmont/Four Corners/Ferdig portion of the Treasure State Pipe Line Company's transmission pipeline system effective December 15, 1981 in Docket No. 81.10.92.

2. On November 13, 1981, the Commission's Order No. 4857 in Docket No. 81.10.92 granted Treasure State Pipe Line Company authority to terminate portions of its natural gas transmission pipeline.

3. Order No. 4857 will result in increased purchased natural gas costs to Consumers Gas Company, because Treasure State Pipe Line Company will be purchasing 100%, rather than the previous 96%, of its natural gas from the Montana Power Company. As a result the cost of gas purchased by Consumers Gas Company from Treasure State Pipe Line Company will increase by \$.1382 Mcf, and Consumers Gas Company will need to increase its natural gas service rates and charges to its customers by \$.1382 Mcf to track the increase.

4. Due to the fact that Consumers Gas Company does all of its billing manually, the Commission finds that the Company's request that its tracking increase to its end-use customers be allowed in the amount of \$.14 Mcf rather than \$.1382 Mcf is justified on the basis of billing convenience.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Commission may, in its discretion, temporarily approve increases pending a hearing on final action. If the final action is to disapprove the increase, the Commission shall order a rebate to all consumers for the amount collected retroactive to the date of the temporary approval, Section 69-3-304, MCA.

2. The application will be noticed for hearing at a later date.

ORDER

1. Consumers Gas Company is authorized to increase its rates to recover increased natural gas costs from Treasure State Pipe Line Company as a result of the Commission's Order No. 4857, and to file tariffs and supporting cost computations.

2. The increase granted herein is subject to rebate should the final order in this docket determine that a lesser increase than authorized by this order is required.

3. In the event a rebate is directed by a supplemental order in this Docket, provision shall be made in that order to cause all uncollected rebates to be escheated to the State of Montana, in the manner provided by law.

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4. The increased rates shall be collected on a contract uniform cents per Mcf basis.

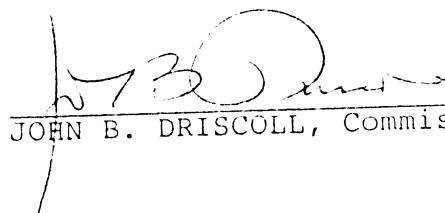
5. The filed tariffs shall be effective for services rendered on and after December 15, 1981

DONE IN OPEN SESSION by a vote of 5-0 at a meeting of the Public Service Commission held in Helena, Montana on December 14, 1981.

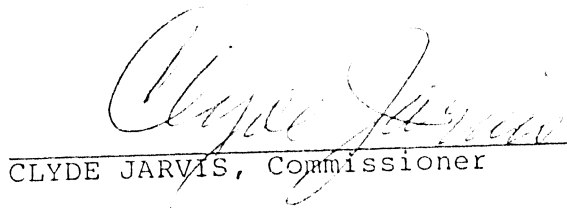
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BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.


GORDON E. BOLLINGER, Chairman



JOHN B. DRISCOLL, Commissioner


HOWARD L. ELLIS, Commissioner


CLYDE JARVIS, Commissioner


THOMAS J. SCHNEIDER, Commissioner

ATTEST:


Madeline L. Cottrill
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)

NOTE: You may be entitled to judicial review of the final decision in this matter. If no Motion for Reconsideration is filed, judicial review may be obtained by filing a petition for review within thirty (30) days from the service of this order. If a Motion for Reconsideration is filed, a Commission order is final for purpose of appeal upon the entry of a ruling on that motion, or upon the passage of ten (10) days following the filing of that motion. cf. the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, esp. Sec. 2-4-702, MCA: and Commission Rules of Practice and Procedure, esp. 38.2.4806 ARM.